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**THE STRIKE TAKES PLACE.**

**HUNDREDS OF READING RAILROAD EMPLOYEES GO OUT.**

The Company Securing New Men But, Through Inexperience, Very Little is Accomplished—The Tracks Blocked With Freight—All the Miners to Follow.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 1.—The Knights of Labor struck the Reading railroad a hard blow this morning in a vulnerable spot, when all the freight handlers and others employed at Noble and Willow street wharves, numbering about five hundred hands, failed to put in an appearance at the proper hour this morning. Every one excepting the engineers and switchmen went out in obedience to the orders of their assembly, No. 5890, issued last night. The news published this morning that the men had been ordered out at last night's meetings caused every Reading official to rise bright and early this morning and hurry to their offices.

A representative of the United Press was also on the scene early. When the superintendent at Willow street arrived at his office not a man was on hand to load the cars, and nothing could be done until help arrived. Messages were hastily sent to Superintendent Swigard and Manager Bonzano informing them of the trouble. A dispatch was at once sent to Dispatcher Bertel telling him to get all the men possible, and take them to the wharves. In a short while he succeeded in gathering together about thirty men, mostly Italians and Hungarians, and putting them on a car at Broad and Callowhill streets soon had them on the wharves. They were placed in charge of several experienced men who directed them how to go about their work.

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Meanwhile the Seventh district police had been notified and the men were doubled around the wharves and every man held in readiness at the station house to proceed to the scene at a moment's notice. Sergeant Colburn, after a consultation with the director of public safety, Stokely, took charge of the men at work along the wharves. The strikers did not congregate in the neighborhood, but stayed at their homes and the services of the police were not needed. At 11 o'clock Dispatcher Bertel arrived with a second squad of twenty-five men and put them to work, but very little was accomplished, the wharves being packed with nearly 200 cars of freight to be unloaded and reloaded. So far this is the main point at which the men have shown any willingness to obey the orders to strike.

At Broad and Callowhill about six men did not put in an appearance. They were the crews of two of the shifting engines, but according to the company's statement their places were filled and everything was working smoothly. This is disproven, however, by the fact that Pennsylvania Avenue from Broad to Twenty-first street, is packed with freight cars without a break excepting at street crossings. The new men can do nothing with the trains as is shown by the fact that the engine yard at Twentieth street contained eight of Reading's familiar "camel backs" this morning, all with steam up, but they have not enough experienced men to run them.

No men are out at Ninth and Green streets, and everything is quiet in Port Richmond. Bernard Sharkey was seen at Willow street. He said: "Things are progressing finely this morning and we will soon have this matter settled. Here is a telegram I received from Lee at Pottsville. He says every miner will quit work at 12 o'clock to-night and will not return until this matter is settled. 'How are the men obeying the order to quit here?' he was asked. 'Well, the action of the men here ought to satisfy every one that we are standing together,' he replied.

The committee appointed by local assembly 5890, composed of Messrs. McAleer, Doyle and Downing, to call on Superintendent Swigard, had not put in an appearance up to 9 o'clock, and the superintendent, who was very much worried and excited over the Willow street trouble, refused to see any one connected with newspapers. Whether more men will go out to-day is very doubtful, but it is said that should the miners go out to-night it will give the men here confidence, and they will stop to a man.

**From Reading.**

READING, Pa., Jan. 1.—The Reading railroad employees are striking throughout the Schuylkill region in response to the order of the executive committee of the Knights of Labor. The railroad officials are greatly surprised, as they considered the backbone of the strike broken several days ago. About eight hundred men went out yesterday afternoon on the Mahanoy & Shamokin division, which is badly crippled in consequence. Some seventy-five engineers and train hands were sent to Shamokin last night by the railroad officials and will be put to work to-day under police protection.

The miners undoubtedly intend to strike January 1 unless President Corbin continues the 8 per cent. advance. This will cause a coal famine in eastern Pennsylvania, which has not over a week's supply on hand.

Trades unions of this city, representing 1,800 men, passed resolutions censuring the Philadelphia & Reading officials for their attack on organized labor and condemning the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers for offering to assist the company.

**Undecided as a Body.**

TAMAUQUA, Pa., Jan. 1.—A meeting of the Knights of Labor, of Tamauqua, adjourned Friday night without reaching a decision. The men will all go to work this morning as usual, but another special meeting will be held to reach a final decision. Fully two-thirds of the members here are opposed to striking. The total number of knights employed is about three hundred, or 90 per cent. of total number of employees.

**President Corbin Speaks.**

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 1.—President Corbin has addressed a long communication to the Reading employees in the Schuylkill region. He says that the company gave the miners 8 per cent. advance for four months only, and that by agreement they must return to work January 1 on the \$3.50 basis, which he considers fair. He calls on the miners to stand by their bargain like honest men.

**Church Burned.**

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Jan. 2.—The Immanuel

Presbyterian church, the first religious structure in the city, caught fire at 3 o'clock this morning, and nothing now remains but the walls. It was built at a cost of \$180,000 in 1875, and was insured for \$85,000. It is thought the fire originated from the furnace. A meeting of directors was held this morning, and it was decided to rebuild immediately.

**LATEST BY CABLE.**

**A Brief Summary of the Most Important Foreign Happenings.**

LONDON, Jan. 2.—Much is written about Russia and the Russians from time to time that challenges the admiration of the Muscovite from the czar to the most humble of his subjects who can read and this class of literature finds ready entrance into the empire and unrestricted circulation. These writings, it is needless to say, rely in no wise upon the merit of truth for their endorsement by the Russian censors, but rather upon the facility with which and extent to which they are misleading. The most recent of the conspicuous examples of the suppression of truth for the "good of holy Russia," is the exclusion from a recent number of the Century is an article from the pen of Mr. George Kennan, treating of the penal system of the northern empire.

From what is known of Mr. Kennan's Siberian travels and experiences the conclusion is made that no one is more competent to write comprehensively on the subject, he has chosen for the expurgated article than he, and the researches of English travelers in the same field confirm his statements. While the penal system of Russia is unquestionably the simplest of any known, it is at the same time the least understood, even in Russia, and the Russian government, which, by availing itself of its severe simplicity, has more than at once averted a foreign war, and often suppressed an embryo revolution, has no disposition to see lifted the veil which conceals the most potent means of holding sway.

During Mr. Kennan's visit to London, after his observations on Siberia, he frequently expressed to prominent English writers and travelers views on the subject of Russian prisons and prisoners, similar to those he has embodied in his article, and his opinions and theories are known to have been embodied in a report submitted to the foreign office for the information of that department.

**Germany Wants Peace.**

BERLIN, Jan. 1.—The National Zeitung says: "Germany neither expects nor desires war. Prince Bismarck has thrown into the scale the decisive word in favor of peace. It is hardly probable that Russia will be in a position to force a war upon Germany and her allies. The chances are, therefore, that peace will prevail, although this peace cannot be taken as synonymous with the restoration of European tranquility, a fact for which Russia must answer to the world."

**The Pope's Jubilee.**

ROME, Jan. 2.—Church dignitaries and others are flocking to this city to attend Pope Leo's jubilee. To-day is the fiftieth anniversary of his entrance into the priesthood. The pope's refusal to accept the jubilee gifts of the king and queen of Italy has prevented the house of Savoy from tendering any offerings.

**To the Source of the Nile.**

BRUSSELS, Jan. 2.—The sultan of Zanzibar has ceded to the British East Africa association, for fifty years, the sovereignty over the territory between Port Wanga and Vitu, a distance of thirty-five kilometers. This will facilitate the opening of routes to Victoria Nyanza, so that England can extend her influence to the source of the Nile.

**The Boston Brute Wants Blood.**

LONDON, Jan. 2.—John L. Sullivan has written to the London Sportsman saying that he once made Jake Kilrain jump out of the ring in two rounds, and that he thrashed Charles Mitchell roundly. In his fight with "Tug" Wilson the latter was on the floor most of the time. Sullivan promises to fight all the Englishmen in turn.

**Gladstone on Heats and War.**

LONDON, Jan. 2.—Gladstone, in an interview, expresses himself as greatly surprised at the recent reduction in rents by the commission in Ireland, and thinks that this move will make the landlords as well as the people hostile. He also expresses the belief that war in Europe will not begin before spring, if at all.

**The Latest From Mackenzie.**

LONDON, Jan. 2.—In an interview to-day Dr. Mackenzie stated that he was greatly pleased with the improvement in the condition of the Crown Prince Frederick William. Dr. Mackenzie said he had never admitted that the disease from which the crown prince is suffering is a cancer.

**The Jews Must Go.**

ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 2.—It is said that high government officials reject the proposition of the imperial commission to allow Jews to reside in any village of Russia.

**Colliery Fire Still Burning.**

SHEKANDIAH, Pa., Jan. 2.—The Packer colliery fire at Lost Creek is still burning fiercely. About one hundred yards of the slope led in yesterday from the surface, and it is feared that some of the mine buildings will yet be destroyed. The colliery is now practically ruined, as several hundred feet of the coal seams in it are on. The company's men are fighting the fire as best they can both from above and below, but thus far with only meager success. It is not expected that much advantage can be gained so far as No. 4 colliery is concerned, but the safety of No. 3 mine depends on the conquering of the fire. It is not improbable that the mine will have to be drowned out, but that will be a difficult task, owing to the extensive openings below the fire.

**A Drop in Coke.**

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 1.—The Connellsville coke operators have organized a new syndicate, and have decided to reduce the price of coke from \$3 per ton to \$1.75, the reduction to take place January 1. The Frick company is not a member of the syndicate, and took no part in the reduction.

**Prize Fight Stopped.**

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 2.—The police being on the ground this morning, the referee postponed the Ridge-Kelly prize fight until he could select another place.

## BUSINESS OF THE YEAR.

**IT CLOSES WITH LITTLE MORE THAN SEASONABLE DULLNESS.**

**R. G. Dun & Company's Weekly Review of Trade and Business of the Year—Holiday Trade and Outlook for the Near Future.**

**The Iron Industry—Business Failures.**

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—R. G. Dun & Company's weekly review of trade will say: "A year of enormous business closes with a little more than the seasonable dullness. Transactions much beyond the average in September and October prepared for some slackening of trade in November and December, which has been increased by tariff uncertainties, by several strikes of importance and by a speculative advance in prices.

Unusual pressure for money during the fall, on the other hand, caused adjustments which prevent severe pressure as the year closes, and except at a few western points the money markets are comparatively easy with collections almost everywhere fair, and at most points reasonably good.

Holiday trade has generally been large, and the recent change in weather brings greater activity in some branches. But the pending strikes and controversies about wages and uncertainties as to the future in some of the largest industries, operate unfavorably. Ease of money and belief that the Reading strike would not last, have helped stocks to improve until yesterday, when the day opened with some reaction. Hopes of activity and advance after New Year's sustain prices, but the great movement of foreign capital hitherto for investment has ceased, at least for the time.

In November trade statistics indicate that the outgoing slightly exceeded the incoming goods and capital. December exports at New York 1.3 per cent. below last year's against imports 1.7 per cent. below, indicate that at least \$15,000,000 in goods and cash has probably gone abroad and foreign sales have exceeded purchases of securities. If continued, this movement will affect the placing of securities for new roads and thus influence great industries. The dying year has seen 12,274 miles of railway finished, making the mileage for the United States 150,710, but changes of freight rates at the west tend steadily downward, lessening the prospect for building next year. The Pennsylvania reports a decrease of \$170,000 in net earnings for November, and the Erie a decrease of \$24,383.

The iron industry after the largest year's output on record is rapidly cutting down production prices, and at many points wages. The Thomas company is expected to announce \$21 as its price for the best iron. Since March the average of all grades at Philadelphia has declined \$1.42, and of rails \$6. Sales of 20,000 tons Alabama and Tennessee iron are reported, but no sales of rails for which next year's orders cover only 300,000. The Western Nail association lowers card rates from \$2.25 to \$2. The cotton industry records for the year larger production, sales and profits than for 1886, and the year closes with an excellent demand, stocks well cleaned up, and many makes sold well ahead. But the woolen manufacture is described as having about the most unsatisfactory year it has ever experienced, with business smaller and profits smaller than last year's, and foreign agents are again offering heavy woads 5 to 10 per cent. below last year's prices. Enormous importations have left a large stock of dress goods on hand. Overcoatings are moving fairly, but fine goods at 5 to 10 per cent. decline. The sale of wool at Boston for the last quarter falls 23 per cent. below last year's.

The coal production has been the largest on record, but the market closes with some excitement, the Lehigh strike continuing, while dispatches affirm that Reading miners will strike January 1. The grocery trade has been very large for the year, and closes with fair activity, notwithstanding the speculation in coffee and the rise in sugar following reports of a decrease of 392,000 tons in best product. Provisions hold the recent advance, beef is again a shade dearer, and there has been a rise of six cents in oil. Cotton, in spite of small receipts, is a shade lower, but breadstuffs have risen wheat and corn about one cent each.

The treasury has added \$714,000 to its deposits with banks, and \$160,000 to the circulation during the week. It has now increased the circulation of coin and paper about \$64,000,000 since July 1, and \$130,000,000 since July 1, 1886. The incomplete returns of clearing house exchanges indicate an aggregate for the year exceeding \$51,000,000, with a gain of about 4 per cent. over last year, but November showed a small decrease, and in December the decrease in payments has been considerable.

The year's return of failures reported to R. G. Dun & Company, the mercantile agency, shows a decrease of 300 in number for the year, but a large increase of \$51,000,000 in liabilities as follows: 1887 number 9,634; liabilities, \$107,500,944; average, \$17,382; 1886 number 9,894; liabilities, \$114,644,119; average, \$11,651.

The returns for the Dominion of Canada, show 1,382 failures, with \$16,311,745 liabilities; average, \$11,803. The failures in the dominion were one in every fifty-four persons in business. In the United States they average one in every 111 persons.

**FIRE PANIC.**

**Fright of a Mission Superintendent Resulted in Injury to a Number of Children.**

CHICAGO, Jan. 2.—A horrible accident occurred last night among a crowd of little children attending the annual holiday celebration of the Haymarket mission in Seamen's hall, corner of Lake and Desplaines streets. The mission is conducted by the First Congregational church through a superintendent, Richard D. Lay. The location is just half a block from the scene of the anarchist bomb throwing, and most of the half hundred children present were drawn from the squalid tenements in the neighborhood. The little ones were passing up and down stairs when a shivering youngster, attempting to poke the fire in the hall, overturned the stove.

Superintendent Lay thoughtlessly yelled "fire, fire," and a wild rush by the children followed. They were met by others coming in, and all were wedged in the narrow stairway. Scarcely any escaped without being

crushed or trampled upon, but so far as known there is but one fatality. Emil Way, aged nine, cannot live. Two sisters, Lillie and Louise Lemker, aged ten and eleven, are very seriously hurt, and the eldest may die. A boy named William Sanders is the only one else heard to have been seriously injured. The superintendent was at once placed under arrest.

**THE FISHERY QUESTION.**

**Joseph Chamberlain Says That He is Hopeful of a Settlement.**

TORONTO, Jan. 2.—The board of trade held its annual dinner Friday night. It was a most brilliant affair and was attended by upwards of three hundred gentlemen. Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, M. P., delivered a speech in reply to the toast "Commercial Interests of the Empire." He referred to the attitude of a certain influential journal which that morning referred to him as a representative of British exporters and as having declared that the interests of Canada must be subordinated to those of Manchester. That was not so. He was there as a representative of Great Britain, and he thought the interests of Canada, of Great Britain and of the United States lay in the same direction. He was an Englishman, proud of the glorious traditions and institutions of his country. But all patriotism would be stunted indeed if it did not embrace Great Britain beyond the seas. He refused to speak of the United States as a foreign power.

He would urge good neighborhood with the great republic. Any difficulties which might exist between Canada and her neighbor were to be approached and dealt with as between friends. The prospects of improved relations with the United States never looked more hopeful than at present. No doubt the United States would soon moderate its tariff against Great Britain. In a few years it might not be too much to expect that it would disappear altogether against Great Britain and all the world. What Canada required was the development of her great, her illimitable resources, and not a tariff which would shackle her agricultural industries. He was in favor of the widest possible commercial union, not only with the United States, but with the world.

It was surely a restricted reciprocity which would make a people dependent for financial freedom on the government of the United States, or something which would be still more important—Canada's political freedom. When the slender tie that bound Canada with the mother country became a burden to the former country, then it would be time enough for Great Britain to consider a measure of relief. He was enthusiastically cheered.

**PLYMOUTH CHURCH.**

**Lyman Abbott Will Continue in Temporary Occupation of the Pulpit.**

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—At the business meeting after the prayer meeting of Plymouth church Friday evening, the letter from the Rev. Charles A. Berry, of Wolverhampton, England, declining the call to the pastorate of Plymouth church, was read by I. D. Stanwood, representing the special committee appointed to notify Mr. Berry of the call. The letter, which has already been pretty well covered by the cable correspondents, concludes as follows:

"I love you. I can never forget you. I will ever pray for you. Let me have the assurance that in doing what seems to be my duty I have your approval and affection. May the blessings of Almighty God rest upon your great and advancing nation, granting to her a succession of godly leaders, peopling her with industrious and contented communities, stirring her sons with the holy ambitions of peaceful progress and making her rich in fruitful service to mankind. May the ties between America and England grow more close and numerous, and may God help the two lands of one people so to work together in love as to hasten to its issue the travail of humanity."

No remarks were made on the subject of the letter or the action of Mr. Berry, but the same committee was authorized to make a suitable reply. On motion of Thomas C. Sherman it was decided that the church nominate for confirmation by the society the Rev. Dr. Lyman Abbott to be temporary acting pastor of the church, to serve as long as the church may desire up to the time of the choice of a permanent pastor.

Dr. Abbott's call will be confirmed at a special meeting of the society, and his salary will then be fixed. John Clafin said that as long as Dr. Abbott would consent to preach he should be in favor of being in no hurry about choosing a permanent pastor.

**HORRIBLE REVELATION.**

**A Death Trap Discovered in the Cabin of a Half Breed Indian.**

PIERRE, Dak., Jan. 2.—For months a degree of mystery has surrounded the movements of John La Blant, a Sioux Indian half breed, whose ranch is at Willow Creek, fifteen miles west of this city, near the old Deadwood stage road, upon the Sioux reservation. La Blant's ranch was a stopping place in the Black Hills for travelers during the early days. Many people who left Pierre for the hills were never heard from after leaving the city. A few days ago La Blant was detected in stealing cattle, and he left for parts unknown.

Yesterday a thorough investigation of the premises was made, and in one bed room of the house, in front of the bed, was observed what appeared to be an opening or trap-door. This was found to be hung on hinges so that it would drop when a cord was pulled, the cord extending from a bolt under the door to a room occupied by La Blant. The opening under the trap was twelve feet deep and fourteen feet square. An examination of the cavern revealed the skeletons of twelve grown human beings and two smaller ones, supposed to be women or large sized boys. No clothing was found in the hole, the only article of any kind discovered being an iron bar about two feet in length, which it is supposed the band used to murder his victims after he had dropped them down. As the affair occurred on the Indian reservation, this county will not take any steps to secure arrests, the reservation being outside of the county jurisdiction.

**Mrs. Taylor's Funeral Not Arranged.**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—No arrangements for the funeral of Mrs. E. B. Taylor, wife of Congressman Taylor, of Ohio, who died here suddenly yesterday, will not be made until the arrival of her son and son-in-law.